

A<sup>2</sup> absorbs the sound better than the sound absorbing material 4a, and a sound absorbing material 4c formed of a sound absorbing material such as glass wool that is less expensive than the sound absorbing material 4b are arranged on the outer periphery thereof. The sound absorbing material 4a also has a function to prevent the sound absorbing materials 4b, 4c from dispersing.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 at line 7 with the following:

A<sup>3</sup> When mounting the muffler 1 constructed as described above in the exhaust system of an engine for automobiles, the exhaust pipes P1, P2 are connected to both ends of the muffler 1. Therefore, the sound absorbing material 4 placed between the internal tube 2 and the external tube 3 is held by the projection 6, and thus is prevented from leaning to one side or being deformed even when vibrations from the engine or of the vehicle body act on the muffler 1. Even when the axial length of the sound absorbing material interposed between the internal tube and the external tube is long, leaning to one side can be prevented. In addition, in the structure in which sound absorbing materials of different kinds are multilayered in the direction of thickness as shown in the figure, occurrence of slippage or wrinkles at the mating portion is reliably prevented.

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

- A<sup>4</sup> 1. (Amended) An engine muffler comprising a sound absorbing material interposed between an internal tube and an external tube, wherein a projection projecting toward the sound absorbing material is formed on the external tube along almost the entire periphery thereof.